

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6485

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 6988

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EINV, EMIN, PFOR, PE, US

SUBJ: MARCONA NATIONALIZATION - FORMER AMB. BERCKEMEYER

INDICATES GOP CONCERN AT HIGHEST LEVEL OVER CASE

RSN: LIMA 6959

1. FORMER AMBASSADOR TO U.S. FERNANDO BERCKEMEYER CALLED ON AMBASSADOR AUGUST 26 WITH THE OBVIOUS PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING MARCONA CASE WITH HIM. AFTER BRIEF PERIOD OF SMALL TALK, BERCKEMEYER LAUNCHED INTO MARCONE CASE, SAYING HE HAD BEEN WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA FLOR, MINES MINISTER FERNANDEZ MALDONADO, AND PRESIDENT VELASCO HIMSELF AND THAT ALL ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE MARCONA SITUATION.

2. BERCKEMEYER SAID THAT PRESIDENT VELASCO IS PUTTING ON A STRONG FRONT, AS IS FERNANDEZ MALDONADO, BUT THAT BOTH ARE VERY WORRIED OVER MARCONA IMPLICATIONS FOR PERU. HE SAID FURTHER THAT DE LA FLOR IS EVEN MORE PREOCCUPIED WITH THE CASE THEN THE OTHER TWO.

3. HE SAID HE HAS BEEN CHARGED BY THE GOP TO ASSIST IT IN RESOLVING MARCONA ISSUE. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SPECIFY HIS FUNCTIONS, HE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE HAD TOLD THE GOP OFFICIALS

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CONCERNED HE WOULD PARTICIPATE ONLY IF HE WAS AUTHORIZED TO

SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION WHICH WOULD INCLUDE THE INTERESTS OF BOTH THE GOP AND MARCONA.

4. THE AMBASSADOR REITERATED OUR POSITION IN FULL AND PASSED TO HIM THE TALKING POINTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS WE HAVE PREPARED ON THE CASE. THE AMBASSADOR TOLD BERCKEMEYER THAT HIS CONCERN WAS LEGITIMATE AND MENTIONED, INTER ALIA, THE COST TO PERU OF THE PRESENT HIERROPERU OPERATION, AS WELL AS THE OVER-ALL ECONOMIC COST TO THE COUNTRY. WE BELIEVE THAT BERCKEMEYER WENT AWAY CONVINCED THAT THE ONLY SOLUTION IS A MUTUALLY NEGOTIATED ONE.

5. BERCKEMEYER MENTIONED THAT THE GOP IS NOT SINGUINE ABOUT FINDING SHIPPING FROM OTHER COUNTRIES THAT COULD CARRY PERUVIAN ORE UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES AND IS ALSO AWARE OF MARKETING LIMITATIONS. HE DID INDICATE, HOWEVER, THAT THE JAPANESE POSITION ON MARCONA MAY HAVE SHIFTED SOMEWHAT WITHOUT GOING INTO DETAIL.

6. COMMENT: BERCKEMEYER'S CALL IS AN INDICATION OF THE HIGH-LEVEL CONCERN THE GOP FEELS OVER MARCONA CASE. IT DOES NOT, NECESSARILY MEAN HOWEVER THAT VELASCO IS PREPARED TO RETREAT FROM THE NATIONALISTIC STANCE WHICH HE HAS CONSTRUCTED FOR HIMSELF.
DEAN

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